

K-321 Boyd House

c. 1888

Chestertown

private

The Boyd House, built under the direction of Harry L. Boyd and modeled on a house he had seen in Salisbury, is one of the most striking examples of small scale Victorian gothic style in Chestertown. Particularly notable are its x full size gables with bargeboard trim, which stood out boldly in their original aspect, painted in contrasting colors. The house is essentially unaltered but badly in need (and full deserving) of a refurbishing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Boyd House

K-321

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 North Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Marjorie Dixon Bramble

Telephone #: 778 2160

STREET & NUMBER

200 North Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

Liber #: WHG 56

Folio #: 626

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-321

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boyd House is a late nineteenth century frame Victorian dwelling, located on the north corner of the intersection of Mill and Calvert Streets in Chestertown.

It is built on an "L" plan. The main wing is 2½ stories high, 3 bays wide, and one room deep. It has an "A" roof with a nearly full width front gable that reaches nearly to the peak of the roof. The southwest, southeast, and northeast (left, front, and right) gables are trimmed with very prominent decorative bargeboards, which at one time had their borderwork painted with a contrasting color. The house retains its original clapboard siding.

The front elevation of the main wing has a full width 1-story porch with a flat roof. The porch has a railing of square balusters; there are square posts at the corners, which are buttressed by wood arches. The cornice is supported by brackets with small ornamental double-headed scrolls. The front entrance is in the northeast (right) bay and has a single pane transom above it. The second story has three double hung windows directly above the windows and entrance on the first story. All of the windows on the house--at the first and second stories--are 2/2 and have louvered shutters. There is one window, with a semi-circular upper sash and a simple hood molding over it, in the gable.

The southwest (left) elevation of the main wing has a 1-story bay window in its center, which has a flat roof and brackets. The second story has two windows paired under a continuous plain cornice. There is one window, with a semi-circular upper sash and a simple hood molding over it, in the gable.

The southeast (right) elevation of the main wing has no windows on the first and second stories, but has the single window in the gable.

The gables have a plain box cornice: at the base of each gable is a short return, which is supported by brackets identical to those supporting the cornice on the porch. The roof is covered with composition shingles; there are no chimneys on the main section of the house.

The "L" wing of the house is squared to the northeast (right) elevation of the main wing. It has two stories, is three bays long and one room deep, and has an "A" roof. Its main cornice carries the same brackets as the rest of the house. There is a pair of windows and an entrance on the first story and two pairs of windows on the second story, all on the southwest side of the wing. There is a single story porch with a shed roof running along this side of the wing; it abuts the slightly projecting main wing. The cornice of the porch is also bracketed and its posts carry the same buttress arches as the front porch.

There is a chimney at the rear of the wing. Beyond the "L" wing is a 1-story full width leanto addition. According to the present owner, the 2-story wing is original and the 1-story leanto was added by the original owner, Harry Boyd.

The house is badly in need of paint, has a deteriorating front porch roof, but other wise appears to be in fair to good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-321

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1880's BUILDER/ARCHITECT not known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boyd House, built in the late 1880's under the direction of Harry L. Boyd and modeled on a house he had seen in Salisbury, is one of the most striking examples of small-scale Victorian gothic style in Chestertown.

By building a full-width gable on the front of the house, the designer has enabled the house's principal decorative feature--its prominent bargeboards--to affect three elevations and thereby make a basic contribution to the building's overall shape. The effect is to square the top of the slightly oblong house, giving it somewhat the aspect of a tower. This mildly gothic effect was originally emphasized further by the contrasting paint on the borders of the bargeboard.

The other distinctive aesthetic feature of the house is the restraint shown in the choice of the other decorative details. They tend to balance or assist its principal feature rather than compete with it. The front porch and bay window help to balance the "weight" at the top of the house. The porch buttress arches echo the arch shape of the bargeboards and the hood moldings over the semicircular sash of the gable windows. The cornice brackets throughout the house are decorative to complement the highly decorative work on the bargeboards, but the pendants are notably small. At several very tempting places on the house--the cornice over the paired windows, the front entrance, for two examples--plain decorations have been chosen over ornate ones. As much of the success of the house's expression of Victorian style lies in its restraint as in its basic bold statement.

The house remained in the Boyd family for two generations. It passed through several families in the 1920's and was then purchased by James T. Dixon, Jr., whose family have held it ever since.

K-321

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the intersection of the northeast side of Calvert Street with the northeast side of Mill Street and running thence in a northeasterly direction with the northwest side of Mill Street 52 feet, 2 inches, more or less, to the lands of George E. Gorsuch, thence in a northwesterly direction at right angles with Mill Street 105 feet, 2 inches, more or less, to the northeast side of Calvert Street, and thence in a southeasterly direction with the northeast side of Calvert Street 105 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

DATE

April, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Title Search on Boyd House

Thomas W. Eliason, Jr. to ~~Charles York~~ Harry L. Boyd SB 1 547 (1881) \$400
(part of land house is built on)

Charles S. York to Harry L. Boyd SGF 2 138 (1893) \$225
(additional piece of land)

Bernard F. Boyd, Mary Boyd, and Helen Boyd to Owen C. Smith APR 5 79 (1919)
(heirs of Harry L. Boyd)

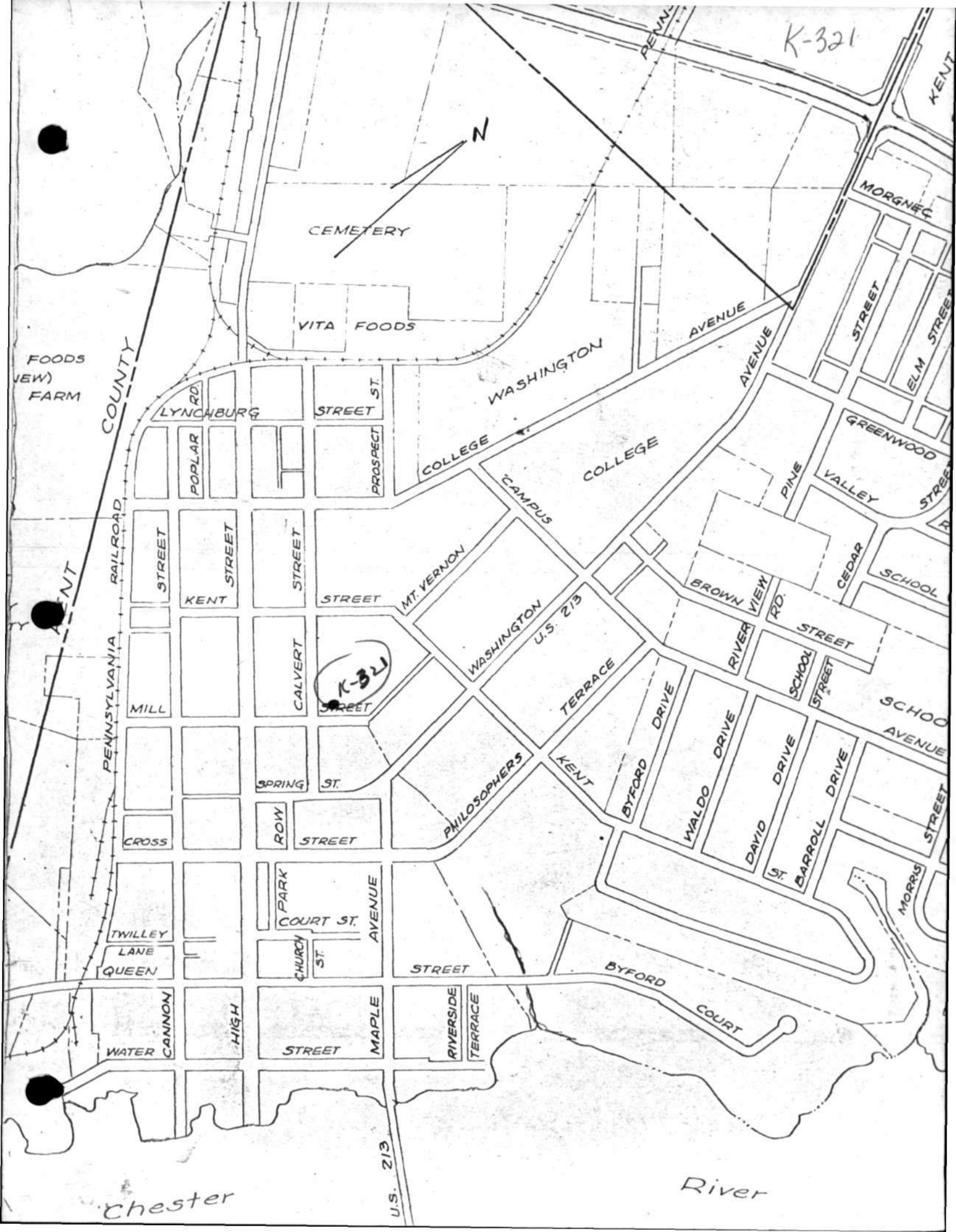
Owen C. Smith to A Howard Covey and wife RRA 3 269 (1924)

A. Howard Covey to Edward A. Richardson and Annie B. RRA 9 241 (1927)

Edward A. Richardson and wife to James T. Dixon, Jr. and Clara RAS 3 252 (1929)

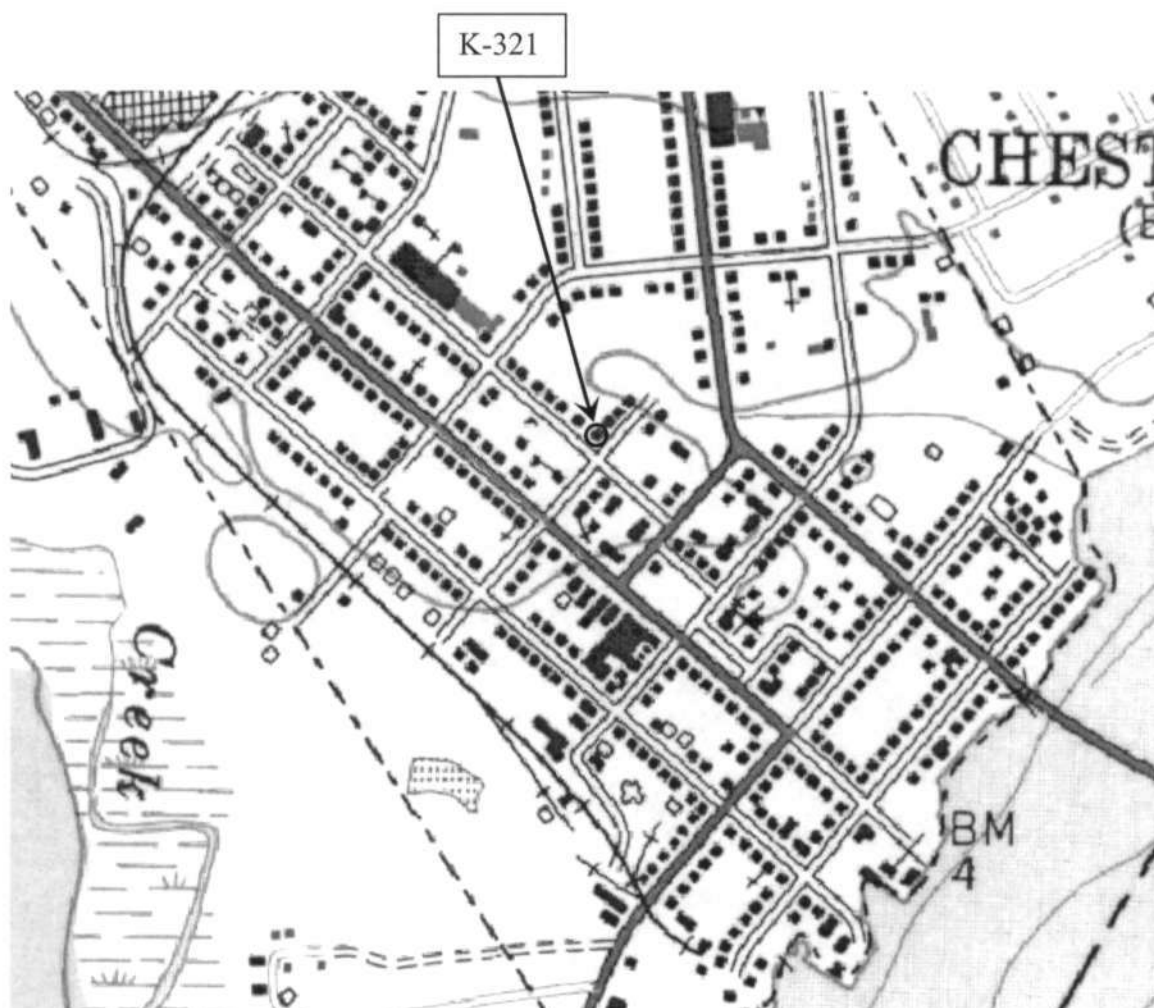
Clara B. Dixon and Marjorie Dixon Bramble, joint tenants WHG 56 626

Marjorie D. Bramble, surviving tenant (1976)





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Boyd House
200 N. Mill St.
Chestertown
Chestertown Quad.
Kent County







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